

Please add new claims 8 through 10 as follows:

-- 8. (New) Header tube according to Claim 2, further characterized in that the ratio (D/D1) of the tube outside diameter (D) outside the slot regions to the tube transverse extent (D1) in the slot regions is between 1.02 and 1.5.

9. (New) Method according to Claim 5, further characterized in that punctiform heat treatment and/or mechanical weakening is provided at the points at which the slot or slats (3a) to (3d) are to be introduced.

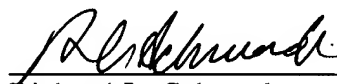
10. (New) Method according to Claim 6, further characterized in that punctiform heat treatment and/or mechanical weakening is provided at the points at which the slot or slats (3a) to (3d) are to be introduced.--

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully request that the foregoing amendments to Claims 3 and 7 and new Claims 8 through 10 be entered in order to avoid this application incurring a surcharge for the presence of one or more multiple dependent claims. A mark-up version of the claims as amended is attached herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. Header tube according to Claim 1[or 2], further characterized in that the ratio (D/D_1) of the tube outside diameter (D) outside the slot regions to the tube transverse extent (D_1) in the slot regions is between 1.02 and 1.5.

7. Method according to [one of]Claim[s] 4[to 6], further characterized in that punctiform heat treatment and/or mechanical weakening is provided at the points at which the slot or slats (3a) to (3d) are to be introduced.

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